



THE BEAT

Delivering what the public wants most of all: a greater visible presence on our streets.

With next year's budget finalised, we're moving swiftly towards the outcomes I've agreed with our partners to improve the policing experience in Nottinghamshire. Financially, we're still being tested and it will be a long time before we can approach a new year without trepidation at the scale of the challenge facing us. That said, this year at least, we have a robust plan of action that will deliver what the public wants most of all: a greater visible presence on our streets.



THAT'S RIGHT... from February 24th, my team and I will be moving to new offices so look out for our new contact number and address on page 3.

This month, the Police and Crime Panel formally endorsed my 2014-15 budget which will give life to all of the ambitious plans I've proposed for the County in the year ahead and beyond. Underpinning all of my aspirations for Nottinghamshire is a desire to meet the public's need of a stronger, more visible frontline and I am pleased that this budget supports my promised recruitment plans.



Chair of the Panel, John Clarke, said: "The Panel scrutinised the budget plans carefully, quizzing the Commissioner in some detail over different aspects. The responses reassured members who subsequently agreed to support the proposed increase in council tax.

"We were also pleased to hear that the Commissioner will have an input into the Government's forthcoming review of the way funding is allocated. We are all aware that currently Nottinghamshire loses out on grant money that it should actually receive and we feel this imbalance should be addressed once and for all."

NEW BUDGET aims to protect frontline policing

An extra 30 Police Officers will be hired over the next 12 months to tackle the issues which matter to local people. This will bring the increase in officer strength to 120 by April 2015 when compared to 2012/13. Furthermore, the number of PCSOs would have increased by 75 during the same period.

Among a number of new initiatives planned is the introduction of a rural alert system providing timely crime information to farmers and landowners and the launch of Rural Special Constables to increase reassurance in some of our more isolated villages. Chasing criminals does little to heal the problems that cause disengagement from society in the first place and this is why I'm placing so much emphasis on prevention. A Prevent Fund has been created which frees up £100K in-force to enable officers to work with partners for prevention purposes. I've also maintained funding the Safer Nottinghamshire Board and Crime and Drugs Partnership at the same level of £3m so they can continue their work to reduce crime and antisocial behaviour.



The 2014-15 precept



To meet the current year's funding cuts and to honour my recruitment promise, I'm proposing to increase the amount local people pay towards the council tax bill by 1.96% this year (2014-15). This will see the policing portion of the council tax bill for a Band D household rise from £169.65 to £172.98, an increase of £3.33 which is less than a penny a day. Such a move will help us to negotiate the 4.8% reduction of the Force's main policing grant from the Government and help us to sustain performance this year and in the years that follow.

A19 Employment Tribunal

An Employment Tribunal has ruled that five force's use of regulation A19 to require officers with more than 30 years' pensionable service to retire was unlawful. Nottinghamshire was one of the five and almost 100 officers left the force between April 2011 and March 2012 when the force introduced A19.

This is an important landmark decision with big consequences on policing in Nottinghamshire as well as nationally and we are currently in discussions with the other four forces regarding the way forward.

Although this all took place before my time, I know that the decision to use A19 was seen as a necessity in order to meet the funding cuts required by the Government. We'll keep you informed of any developments.



Refreshed Police and Crime Plan

Twelve months ago, I set out a series of aims and objectives in my first Police and Crime Plan to keep Nottinghamshire safe. At the time of its construction I pledged to revisit it every year to ensure it remained relevant to you. Following a period of public consultation, my Plan has now been rejuvenated to incorporate the progress made thus far and the work still to be achieved.

In line with my election pledges, I've continued to lobby the Government for a fairer share of police funding to help us meet the risks posed to our communities. Previous consultations tell us that antisocial behaviour is still a top concern and I'm working hard to address this and meet my objective to reduce it by 50%. The Alcohol Strategy I've developed this year in conjunction with partners will expand support services for those affected and bring tougher enforcement. It will also ensure a unified approach to tackling the problem in the future.



The outcomes we are striving for remain the same – to deliver safer communities, improve trust and confidence and provide value for money policing.

Visits to key community safety partners

Over the past month I've made a number of visits to charities, organisations and community groups who have benefited from funding via my Community Safety Partnership Fund. It's very important in this job to see for myself the work that is taking place to support victims of crime so that I can understand how this fits in with my overall safer Nottinghamshire commitment.

Visits in recent weeks include **Nottinghamshire Women's Aid in Worksop** to find out more about its Star Project - Supporting Teenagers in Abusive Relationships - which supports vulnerable young girls between the ages of 13 to 18 who are at risk of relationship violence. I've also dropped in on Nottingham charity We R Here which provides support services and workshops to children, young people and adults including those affected by domestic violence. Both of these charities provide very valuable counselling services that promote self-esteem and recovery and are making a real difference to the lives of Nottinghamshire residents.





RELOCATION

From February 24th, my team and I will be moving to new offices owned by Gedling Borough Council. Our new base will be in Arnot Hill House, Arnold – a detached building in the grounds of Arnot Hill Park, next to the council’s main Civic Centre.

The relocation will hopefully make it easier for local people to access me. The building also benefits from excellent conference facilities including a number of meeting rooms and the council chambers which will be useful for my team when organising meetings and events.

The full address of the new office is:

**Nottinghamshire
Office of the Police and
Crime Commissioner**

**Arnot Hill House
Arnot Hill Park
Arnold
Nottingham
NG5 6LU**

Telephone:
0115 844 5998



From February 24th

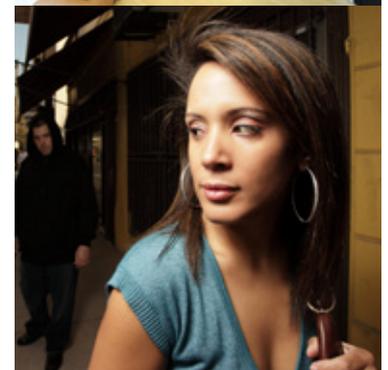
Talking to the people WHO MATTER

There is no better way to improve a service than by talking to the people who actually use it. This is the thinking behind a new victims of crime consultation designed to gather local opinion on what is missing for those who fall victim to crime in Nottinghamshire.

From October, I have the responsibility of commissioning services aimed at helping victims through their experiences. To find out what works and what doesn't, I've commissioned independent research company Opinion Research Services (ORS) to gather information built on real experiences so we get it right in the future.

This work runs alongside a separate consultation focusing on survivors of domestic violence and their experiences of support services with the aim of also improving them in the future. Please, if you know what it's like to be a victim of crime, tell us about your experience at <http://www.nottinghamshire.pcc.police.uk/Get-Involved/Tell-Us-What-You-Need/Tell-Us-What-You-Need.aspx> (this consultation will close on 21 February, so do it today!)

Chris Cutland, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner said: "We really do need victims' views in order to improve the support we provide, so please if you have been a victim of crime, take part in the survey – and encourage others."





TRACK MY CRIME

More than anything else, victims of crime tell us that they want to know what is happening with their crime. Now victims of crime in Nottinghamshire are being given access to a brand new web-based service which gives them instant access to the status of their case.

People can log on and view progress updates and also register for email alerts when something is updated in a bid to make their journey through the criminal justice system smoother. The system, which has been designed to work on smartphones, tablets and desktop computers, is similar to internet banking and promises to revolutionise how police communicate with the public as well as save officer time. Victims will still be able to receive face-to-face updates, letters and phone calls if they prefer this mode of contact.

Small grants scheme launched



This month I have unveiled details of the 2014-15 grants scheme which will help local groups and community-based organisations support victims of crime and reduce offending.

Some £250,000 from my Community Safety Fund has been ring-fenced for this purpose and grants of up to a maximum of £25,000 are available. This year, I'm particularly keen to support services which focus on early intervention such as those that provide support for victims of hate crime, sexual violence and domestic violence in ways not currently being met. I'm also interested in hearing from BME projects which aim to build trust and understanding of the police and those initiatives which aim to reduce antisocial behaviour.

The deadline for applying is 12pm on Monday, March 10. Further information, guidance notes and the application form are available from the Commissioner's website at <http://www.nottinghamshire.pcc.police.uk>.



In addition to my own commitment to prioritise the victim in crime investigation, new national guidance has come into effect which ensures all victims of crime are treated appropriately and kept informed regarding the progress of their case.

The new Code of Practice for Victims of Crime, which came into force in December, aims to improve the experience of victims of crime from the point of reporting a crime through to the end of a trial. It sets out the services and information all victims are entitled to receive from criminal justice agencies and the extra support required for victims of the most serious crime, persistently targeted and vulnerable or intimidated victims. It includes reform that allows victims to choose whether to make a Victim Personal Statement to be read out in court on a guilty verdict which details the emotional and physical effects of their experience at the hands of the offender.

SUPPORT US...

... IN OUR BID TO SEE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE STATE PENSION PROVISION WITHOUT ADDING TO THE FINANCIAL PRESSURES ON THE POLICE BUDGET.

Whatever changes are made to the State Pension, they need to be affordable, now and in the future. I am concerned about the financial implications of the proposed changes for both employers and employees within the Police Service. The impact of the changes being proposed by the Government will be an additional £3.7m of costs for Nottinghamshire alone and that's on top of the reduction in grant funding.

That's why I have started an E.petition, calling for the Government to work with the Police to consider ways to improve matters without adding to the financial pressures we face already.

Please show your support by signing up today! <http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/58238>



KEEP ON TALKING

I'm delighted that so many people contact me, with problems, compliments and comments. This is particularly important as I need to be able to listen to your views and learn from them and also know that you can keep up to date with what my Deputy, my team and I are doing.

Whatever I do, I am answerable to you, the electorate. You can contact me at any time to ask questions or put your views across.

You can visit:

www.nottinghamshire.pcc.police.uk

You can follow me:

@PaddyTipping and @NottsPCC
or **Facebook PaddyTipping or NottsPCC**

You can write to me at:

Nottinghamshire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Arnot Hill House, Arnot Hill Park, Arnold, Nottingham NG5 6LU

E-mail me at:

nopcc@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk

Telephone me on:

0115 844 5998